



# Primary Press

## Classroom Themes



Themes are a magnificent way to educate preschool children. A theme offers consistent subject matter and provides a solid base for teaching a variety of skills. Themes can vary to suit an immense assortment of ideas and concepts whether they are basic or complex. Decorating the classroom using the theme makes the environment exciting and sets the mood.



The monthly theme must include many interesting and age-appropriate activities. Choose subjects that coincide with available materials and activities. Within the month, the theme is broken down to contain weekly relevant units.

Make sure each center in your childcare has some

element of the theme: this will create a cohesive experience for the children. If you are using a winter theme you could add boots, gloves, mittens and scarves in your dress-up center.



To your block area add empty boxes wrapped in white paper to create ice blocks then the children can build igloos or ice walls. For your science experiment have the children fill different size containers with water and put them outside and see how long each takes to freeze. The results can be charted on graph paper. This will result in a lively discussion.



Here is another fun activity. Transform your room

into an imaginary frozen pond or skating rink. Give each child two pieces of wax paper to stand on, which represents their ice skates. Remind the children that the paper is slippery and the magical skates will work better if they glide, keeping their feet planted on the wax paper. Play some waltz music and have the children skate around the room, they are doing the winter waltz.



Create snowmen by providing the children with dark paper, light colored chalk, whipped soap, cotton, oatmeal, rice and paint. Add scraps of paper and fabric, buttons and beans for the snowmen's features.

Enjoy the winter months, relax and have some fun with your children.

## County of Loudoun Family Services

Volume 7, Issue 4

February 2010



### Inside this issue:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Let's Sing             | 2 |
| Have Some Fun!         | 2 |
| Book Corner            | 3 |
| Expand Your Vocabulary | 4 |



# Let's Sing



## Polar Bear

(Sung to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean")

The polar bear lives in Alaska  
He never gets cold in a storm  
He swims in cold icy water  
His heavy coat keeps him warm  
Warm, warm, warm, warm  
His heavy coat keeps him warm  
Warm, warm, warm, warm  
His heavy coat keeps him warm

## I'm a Little Penguin

(Sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little penguin, on the ice  
I think the cold is very nice  
I can hop around  
First once, then twice  
I think ice is very nice



## Six Little Penguins

Six little penguins off an iceberg did dive,  
One bumped his beak, then there were five

Five little penguins swam the ocean floor,  
One saw a whale, then there were four

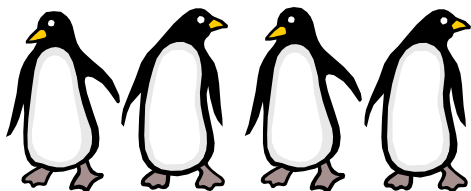
Four little penguins spun around, wheel  
One spun off, then there were three  
Three little penguins, with nothing to do,  
one went fishing then there were two

Two little penguins, having lots of fun,  
One fell off, then there was one.  
One little penguin, when he was done,  
Went home to sleep, then there were none

# Have Some Fun!

## Blubber Experiment

This activity is a little messy but very cool. Take two rubber gloves and a stick of shortening or butter and shove it into one glove. Give each child a disposable glove to put on their hand. Fill a container with cold water and lots of ice. Talk about how there is not much fat on hands and how hands feel cold easily. Let each child stick their gloved hand into the ice water and describe how it feels.



Then put their gloved hand into the shortening filled glove, mold the fat filled glove around theirs so that their hand is completely surrounded by fat. Tell the children this is like the fat that penguins and polar bears

have under their skin and that is how they stay warm. Emerge the gloved hand into the ice water and see that no cold is felt. When the children take their gloved hand out, wrap your hand around theirs and scrape the fat off keeping it into the glove for the next child.

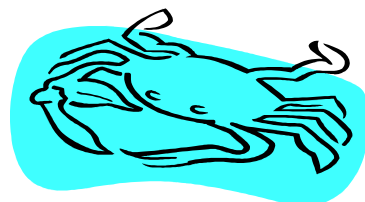
## Ice Sculpture

Place a block of ice in a large plastic container. Put a small bowl of rock salt and a spoon nearby. Let the children take turns spooning salt over the ice. Wherever the rock salt touches, the ice will melt faster leaving a pattern of holes. Have available three small containers of red, yellow and blue food coloring and three eyedroppers. Let the children drop colors on the ice and as it melts the colors will run together and produce secondary colors.



## Ice Fishing

Many people in Alaska earn a living ice fishing. Some of the different types of fish they catch are: Salmon, King Crab, Halibut and Shrimp. Ask the children if they have ever eaten any of those fish—someone in Alaska might have caught a fish they ate. Prepare paper cutouts of fish in different sizes, shapes and colors. Place a paperclip on each fish. Place the fish in a box with a hole in the top. Place a magnet on the end of a string to fish with and let the children go fishing. Have them describe the fish they catch.



# Book Corner

## Winter Eyes

By Douglas Florian

This is a collection of 28 humorous poems that celebrate winter. The poems express the joy of sledding, skating and other fun in the snow as well as the annoyances of slush and runny noses.

## Snow Crazy

By Tracy Gallup

A little girl is eagerly awaiting the snow that has been forecasted. She makes paper snowflakes and drinks hot chocolate. Finally the snow comes and the little girl has a wonderful time playing in the snow with her friends—sledding, skating and making snow angels and building a snowman.



## Stranger in the Woods

By Carl R. Sams II & Jean Stoick

The bluejays, chickadees, deer, owl, squirrels and other animals are not sure how to react to the stranger in the woods. Little by little, starting with the birds, the animals in the woods follow the snow trail and discover the strange in the woods is a snowman. Children came into the woods to build and decorate the snowman. They gave him a carrot nose, mittens and a cap in which they made a dent so it could be filled with nuts and birdseed.



## Katy and the Big Snow

Young children love the story of Katy, a big red crawler tractor who saves the day when a huge snowstorm hits the city. With her big snow plow on, Katy responds to cries for "Help!" from the police chief, the doctor, the superintendent of the water department and the fire chief with, "Follow me," and plows the streets to their destinations.

## Who Lives in the Arctic

By Susan Canizaries

Photographs and simple text explore the variety of animals that have adapted to life in the arctic.

## Arctic Fox: Very Cool

By Stephen Person

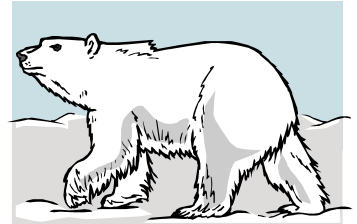
Step into a freezing world to learn about the arctic fox who lives further north than any other land mammal in the world. This large print book comes with a user friendly layout that makes learning about this fox fun and intriguing.



## The Polar Bears' Home

By Lara Bergen

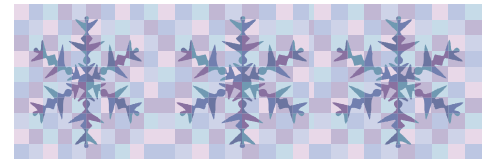
Come along on an Arctic adventure with a little girl and her father and learn all about polar bears. This storybook shows how global warming affects two baby bear cubs and their family.



## Diego's Baby Polar Bear Rescue

By Lara Bergen

Diego and his cousin Dora reunite a pair of baby polar bears with their mother. This is a colorful and fun book for young readers.



## Over in the Arctic Where the Cold Winds Blow

By Marianne Berkes

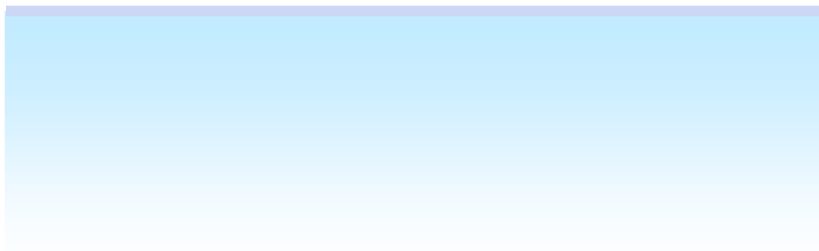
This counting book features a charming counting rhyme filled with interesting facts about animals of the arctic. Included in each picture are hidden animals that will encourage readers to search the illustrations to learn more about the Arctic region. The author has included several suggestions for extended activities and additional web resources. The final pages include information about the Arctic Tundra, Hidden Arctic Animals and a brief paragraph about each of the Arctic animals in the rhyme. The text is put to music of "Over in the Meadow," which can also be used to teach counting.

## County of Loudoun Family Services

Loudoun County Department  
Of Family Services  
102 Heritage Way NE  
Suite 103  
Leesburg, Virginia 20176

Phone: 703 777-0353  
Fax: 703 737-8248  
Email: [childcareworkshop@Loudoun.gov](mailto:childcareworkshop@Loudoun.gov)  
Web: [www.loudoun.gov/childcare](http://www.loudoun.gov/childcare)

### Primary Press



## Expand Your Vocabulary

Did you know that the word Alaska means "Great Land?" Young children always enjoy learning new words, especially if it is a word for something they already understand. Here are some words used in Alaska that you can talk about with the children.

Parka hooded coat

Mukluk fur boots

Kayak one person boat

Umiak 30 foot whaleboat

Musher A person who travels by dog sled



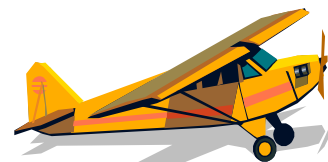
Ice Fog A dense, winter fog of suspended ice particles that can sparkle all around you if there's a little sun shining through

Ice Worm Small, tiny worms that actually live in glacial ice. You can eat them but you need at least one million to make a meal.

Permafrost Ground that is frozen all year-round about two to five feet under the surface.

Termination Dust The first light dusting of snow, this is a warning that the first big snow is just around the corner.

The Bush Villages, mountains and valleys you can only reach by boat or plane



Arctic Entry A pre-entry into your home where dirty, slushy boots, winter gear, mud and work cloths can be taken off before entering your clean house.

